TIPS ON KEEPING YOUR CLASS PERFORMING AMIDST CLASS SUSPENSIONS

by:

Vanessa V. Magcalas
Teacher I, Almacen Elementary School

As cited by Austin (2016), flooding in and around public schools in the Philippines is a constant hazard in the Philippines. As an elementary teacher for almost twelve years now, I can say that this situation is one of the major problems our school is facing yearly especially during rainy seasons. It is sad to say that classes are badly affected due to the several number of class suspensions brought about by flooding.

As a member of a teaching force experiencing this scenario, we can do something to make our pupils cope up with the needed skills and competencies to be learned in the prescribed number of teaching days. Here are some of the ways:

Schedule make-up classes. This is one of the best solution that the Department of Education is imposing on schools due to a lot of class cancellations because of flooding and monsoon rains. Extension classes are done. Class hours in the morning and afternoon are extended so that the teacher will have the ample time to teach and cope up with the missed lessons.

In our school wherein a lot of class suspensions are experienced because our place is the catch basin of flood waters in Hermosa, this strategy is being applied. Extension classes had been a great help not only in my part as a teacher but also to my pupils. Because of the lengthening of class hours, I had the opportunity to make my learners get updated with the missed lessons. This provided me also the time to be in the exact tract of lessons in accordance with the needed skills to be learned.
Use modules. This will play a vital part in making your students learn at home. You can download modules or you can design your own which will suit the ability of your learners. Be resourceful enough in printing copies so that you can give them to all your learners.

I had also tried this technique wherein I had tried to compile the missed lessons with explanations and a number of exercises which will serve as their practice mastering the skill. This strategy is really good for Math, Science & English Subjects. It had also yielded positive results on my part because with the modules I sent to them at home, they had the time to study & practice with the help of their parents. It had been easier for me to know what skills I need to focus more upon checking their work on the module. Parent’s help & guidance are also needed on this strategy. Because the modules are sent home, parents have great role.

Utilize social media in making your class updated with the lesson. You can do this by creating group chat which will serve as a channel to discuss with them the missed lessons. In this way, they receive inputs from you even classes are suspended. In utilizing this technique, just give other pupils who do not have access to this, modules or take home printed lecture and exercises.

On my part, I have not yet utilized this technique with my whole class, because some of them do not have access to internet or cellphones. But if the whole class have internet or CP to use, this is also a good strategy. Some parents & even some of my pupils do send me messages or chat when they have questions about our lessons or assignments. With this, communication is made easier with them. Keeping your pupils updated with the missed lessons using this technique will also be easier if only all of them have internet access.
Ask parent support. Parents’ roles are important. Ask them to guide and monitor their children at home while classes are suspended. Ask them to let their children practice reading so that they will have time at home learning.

With all the tips stated, parents support & help is needed. As a teacher and at the same time a parent also, I believed that parents’ part is crucial in the teaching & learning process. Parents must do their part not only to help their children learn at home when classes are suspended but even when there are no suspensions.

These are only some of the suggestions you can employ so that your pupils will not lose interest in their studies amidst the class cancellation. Always remember that as a teacher, we can do a lot to achieve quality education and keep our schools performing even though our school is in the flood-prone area.

References: